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TELEGRAM

December 15, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 5297 - PRIORITY)
TAGS: PREL, PTER, PGOV
Captions: None
Subject: UAE, OMAN DISCUSS COMMON SECURITY CONCERNS, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
Ref: None

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 05297

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CXABU:
ACTION: POL
INFO: ECON DCM USLO DAO RSO P/M AMB

DISSEMINATION: POL
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB:MMWAHBA
DRAFTED: POL:JFMAYBURY
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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2704
INFO RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 3585
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL
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RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
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STATE FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/14/13
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [GCC](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: UAE, OMAN DISCUSS COMMON SECURITY CONCERNS, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

REF: ABU DHABI 4764

(U) Classified by Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba,
Reasons 1.5 (B) and (D).

1. (C) Summary: UAE Deputy Prime Minister and MFA
Minstate Shaykh Hamdan bin Zayed (HbZ) briefed
the Ambassador December 14 on his talks with
Sultan Qaboos in Oman. HbZ said the talks

centered on regional security, Saudi Arabia's internal unrest, and UAE financial assistance for a regional road project and Omani development projects. End summary

¶2. (C) Three months after meeting in Muscat to formally settle the UAE's historical border dispute with Oman, UAE Deputy Prime Minister and de facto Foreign Minister Hamdan bin Zayed met again with Sultan Qaboos this past week to discuss the two countries' future security cooperation and other bilateral issues. This was the third meeting that HbZ has had with Sultan Qaboos. Their first meeting included HbZ's older brother, UAE Armed Forces Chief of Staff (and recently appointed Deputy Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi) LTG Shaykh Mohammed bin Zayed. The last two meetings have been one-on-one, he told the Ambassador.

¶3. (C) HbZ reported that Sultan Qaboos was deeply concerned about security in light of the situation in the region. He cited Iraq, unrest in Saudi Arabia, and the violence in Palestine/Israel. Sultan Qaboos requested, and the UAE has agreed to provide, Oman with patrol boats, communications gear, and radar capabilities to guard their coastline. They discussed KSA at length and Qaboos told HbZ that he believed the Saudis were in for a long struggle with their extremists that could last 10 to 15 years, and it was not certain that they would win the battle.

¶4. (C) On the development side, Oman wants a \$100 million grant from the UAE to build a road between Nizwa and Salala. The UAE is planning to ask Kuwait and KSA to each match that with \$100 million of their own. The Emiratis are already building the road between Sur and Muscat. Oman also asked for 1 billion dirhams (\$270 million) for other development projects. The UAE is considering how much of this to give as a loan.

¶5. (C) The UAE sees the relationship with Oman as one of its primary strategic relationships. The UAE, Oman, and Qatar need to have close cooperation and coordination, HbZ and Qaboos agreed. Together, they could have a strong influence on the stability and security of the region. HbZ commented that on the political level, Manama is much closer to KSA, and Kuwait is in the middle of that spectrum. Gone are the days when KSA would say something, and all the other Gulf states would jump. Now, even Qatar alone can tell KSA no.

WAHBA